

**Exhibit A**

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1 MR. KAHAN: We will take care of it then.

2 If I could proceed with the witness?

3 THE COURT: Yes, you may.

4 BY MR. KAHAN:

5 Q Good afternoon?

6 A Good afternoon.

7 Q Where do you currently work at?

04:29PM 8 A I'm a detective with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's

9 Department major crimes prison gang unit, and I am also a task

10 force officer on a FBI Safe Streets Gang Task Force.

11 Q Before we get into those areas, can you describe how long

12 you have served the Sheriff's Department?

13 A For 12 years.

14 Q In what roles have you served the Sheriff's Department?

04:29PM 15 A I worked as a deputy at Men's Central Jail, which is a

16 jail located about less than a mile away, probably.

17 I also worked on been a gang unit within the jail called

18 Operation Safe Jail.

04:29PM 19 I also worked as a task force officer with the FBI

20 investigating variety of crimes, including gang crimes.

21 I also worked as a patrolman in the City of Compton for

22 several years, and then back as a task force officer with the

23 FBI, as well as assigned to the major crimes prison gang unit,

24 and I was a detective.

04:30PM 25 Q Let's talk about the major crimes unit. What is that?

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1 A So Major Crimes Bureau is a unit within the Sheriff's  
2 Department that assigns or handles cases that are a little  
3 larger than your single defendant case or single crime case.

4 Often it handles robbery series, kidnappings, murder for  
04:30PM 5 hires, cargo cat theft. There is various surveillance and  
6 fugitive apprehension teams. And then the team I'm on is the  
7 prison gang unit. So we primarily investigate prison gangs,  
8 such as the Mexican Mafia, and the activity that they conduct  
9 both in the jails, prisons, as well as on the streets of Los  
04:30PM 10 Angeles County and the surrounding areas.

11 Q Because you focus on the Mexican Mafia as part of your  
12 role in the major crimes unit, are there certain types of gangs  
13 that are part of the Mexican Mafia that you also focus on?

14 A Yes. The Mexican Mafia is primarily comprised of Hispanic  
04:31PM 15 street gangs within Southern California and the members of  
16 those gangs.

17 So we primarily focus on Hispanic street gangs, as well  
18 as Mexican Mafia members and their high ranking associates  
19 within the jail system, especially since I work in the  
04:31PM 20 Sheriff's Department, and the Sheriff's Department oversees the  
21 Los Angeles County jail system, as well as the California  
22 prison system and any other crimes that they commit throughout  
23 Los Angeles County or the surrounding areas on behalf of those  
24 gangs.

04:31PM 25 Q Earlier on you mentioned you worked for a task force. Can

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1 you describe what this task -- well, back up. What even is a  
2 "task force"?

3 A So a task force is really a group of investigators that  
4 are from various agencies or within different areas of one  
04:31PM 5 particular agency.

6 So, the task force that I'm currently on is comprised of  
7 Sheriff's Department, like myself, the FBI, we have DEA, we  
8 have Pomona Police Department, and El Monte Police Department.

9 And that is primarily who makes up the task force -- FBI, El  
04:32PM 10 Monte, Pomona, and the sheriff's department. So we utilize our  
11 skill sets, our own resources, to all work together towards a  
12 common goal of investigating gang related crimes and, primarily  
13 Mexican Mafia gang related crimes.

14 Q What's your role in this task force?

04:32PM 15 A Well, I'm a detective focusing on prison gangs on the task  
16 force. So I have a large role in the task force ranging from  
17 investigating the crimes to training newer task force officers,  
18 to conducting surveillance, writing search warrants, conducting  
19 interviews, listening to hundreds and hundreds of calls within  
04:32PM 20 the jail and prison system to other members of jail and prison  
21 or people on the streets.

22 So, really, I am kind of a catchall of an investigator  
23 on the task force.

24 Q And before we get into the Mexican Mafia itself, you keep  
04:33PM 25 on using the term "prison gang." What is a prison gang?

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1 A Prison gang is -- could be misleading.

2 Prison gang is really primarily focussed in the prison  
3 system, especially the California prison system because that's  
4 where it is founded. That's where its stronghold definitely  
04:33PM 5 started.

6 But that doesn't mean all of the crimes occur in prison.

7 Oftentimes the highest ranking supervise are located  
8 within the prison system, but a lot of times these crime end up  
9 leading to the streets. So because it is a prison gang and it  
04:33PM 10 found was founded as a prison gang, it's known as a prison gang  
11 but it definitely -- the territory is beyond the prison walls,  
12 beyond the county jail walls, and off all the way into the  
13 streets.

14 Q What we're going to do -- I'm going to dive into this a  
04:33PM 15 little deeper later on. But generally, big picture, can you  
16 just, based off of what you've describe and your familiarity  
17 with it, can you describe generally what the Mexican Mafia is?

18 A So, very generally, what the Mexican Mafia is, it's really  
19 a gang of gangs, like a super gang.

04:34PM 20 And I say that because the Mexican Mafia members -- the  
21 Mexican Mafia itself is comprised of very highly influential  
22 and very respected leaders of various street gangs throughout  
23 Southern California, and now even beyond Southern California.

24 So these are gang leaders of very large and prominent  
04:34PM 25 street gangs in Los Angeles County, Orange COUNTY, Riverside

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1 County, San Diego County, and beyond -- such as 18th Street,  
2 Florencia 13, Pomona 12th Street, for example. And these  
3 actual members now are -- although, they are members of their  
4 original street gang, they are now members of this Mexican  
04:34PM 5 Mafia.

6 These Mexican Mafia members actually control the  
7 criminal activity conducted by those Hispanic street gangs.

8 In the streets, in the county jail system, as well as  
9 the California prison systems, so these members actually  
04:35PM 10 control territories.

11 They operate as their own individual franchise, so they  
12 are not just always working together, but each member once you  
13 are inducted as a Mexican Mafia member, you have your own  
14 territory. You operate individually to a certain extent. Like  
04:35PM 15 a franchise.

16 And you control that criminal activity that is  
17 conducted by those street gangs in the territories you control.

18 Q We're going to break that down a while during this  
19 testimony, but quick question.

04:35PM 20 Mexican Mafia, does it have any other names?

21 A It has a few names. Mexican Mafia is the primary name, La  
22 EME is the -- I would say used the most common. Those are the  
23 two that really jump out at me as things I hear frequently as  
24 an investigator referred to as La EME or the Mexican Mafia.

04:35PM 25 Q Just to be L-A, space E-M-E?

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1 A E-M-E, just the letter M.

2 Q Is that the letter M in Spanish?

3 A In Spanish, yes.

4 Q Now you also mentioned working on something called  
04:36PM 5 Operation Safe Jail. What is that?

6 A So Operation Safe Jail is a unit I worked on inside the  
7 jail so it's actually focusing inside the jail where we're  
8 gathering intelligence on gang members.

9 We are assisting detectives, not only on my department,  
04:36PM 10 the Sheriff's Department, but the surrounding departments  
11 throughout Los Angeles County or the FBI.

12 Gathering intelligence such as monitoring phone calls,  
13 see if they are talking about criminal activity that they are  
14 either in jail for or that they are now involved with on the  
04:36PM 15 streets, meaning they might be ordering violence on the  
16 streets, extortions on the streets. We could be documenting  
17 tattoos, we could be documenting their gang membership, and  
18 their rightful monikers. Really just gathering intelligence  
19 and assisting in any way we can of these investigators, but we  
04:37PM 20 are also investigating the crimes that occur in the jail.

21 So we are investigating assaults that take place in the  
22 jail, weapons manufacturing, which is commonly referred to as a  
23 "shank," like a knife, just a big piece of steel with one --  
24 with a handle at the end.

04:37PM 25 Narcotics smuggling into the jail, narcotics possession,

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1 really any criminal activity that is occurring inside the jail,  
2 especially involving gang members inside the jail, we are  
3 involved in that investigation so we have a wide role.

04:37PM 4 Q How about how many investigations have you been involved

5 in involving the Mexican Mafia would you say?

6 A Well, think about assaults, shootings, murders,  
7 extortions, narcotics, smuggling, sales, firearm sales.

04:37PM 8 MR. NARDONI: I'm going to object, it's  
9 nonresponsive to the question. He asked how many

10 investigations.

11 THE COURT: I will sustain the objection.

12 Let me ask the witness, do you remember the question?

13 THE WITNESS: Yes.

14 THE COURT: Okay. How many investigations?

04:38PM 15 THE WITNESS: Hundreds.

16 BY MR. KAHAN:

17 Q Involving what type of crimes?

04:38PM 18 A Crimes I just mentioned. Extortions, robbery, murder,  
19 attempt murder, shootings, narcotics sales, murder for hires,  
20 conspiracies to commit murder, just any crime you could think  
21 of really is what Mexican Mafia is involved in from my  
22 experience.

23 Q How long has your career been focused on Mexican Mafia  
24 related investigations?

04:38PM 25 A I would say about a decade because I started with the

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1 Operation Safe Jail, which because of most of the criminal  
2 activity occurring within the jail Mexican Mafia related. I  
3 started there about two years into my career and I have been  
4 focusing on it ever since, so about a decade.

04:38PM 5 Q You mentioned earlier that you have listened to jail calls  
6 as part of your investigations?

7 A Yes. A lot of jail calls.

8 Q Can you just generally describe what a jail call is?

04:39PM 9 A So a jail call would be a call placed by an inmate in the  
10 jail, or it could be even in the prison, to somebody out of  
11 custody.

12 These calls are monitored and recorded -- well, they are  
13 recorded, not all calls are monitored because there are  
14 thousands upon thousands of inmates, but they can be monitored,  
04:39PM 15 and I have listened to at least 1,000 of those phone calls  
16 between Mexican Mafia related individuals.

17 Q Now when you are doing this role as an investigator, and  
18 investigating these sort of crimes, do you interview people  
19 that you suspect are associated with the Mexican Mafia?

04:39PM 20 A Definitely.

21 Q How many of these interviews have you done?

22 A At least 100.

23 Q What about people that have confirmed connections to the  
24 Mexican Mafia?

04:39PM 25 A Dozens --

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1 MS. DERBY: Foundation, vague. Confirmed?

2 THE COURT: Rephrase the question.

3 BY MR. KAHAN:

4 Q When you are conducting these interviews do you discuss  
04:40PM 5 with the person you are chatting with if they are, in fact, a  
6 member or an associate of the Mexican Mafia?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And do some admit to it?

9 A Yes.

10 Q How many of those conversations would you say you had?

11 A At least 100.

12 Q Is that helpful for you to be able to have those sort of  
13 conversations?

14 A Definitely.

04:40PM 15 Q Why?

16 A Well, because we're speaking now about their criminal  
17 activity, especially it depends on the circumstances. If it's  
18 somebody that is a suspect in a crime now I'm investigating  
19 that crime and trying to learn nuances of that crime and their  
04:40PM 20 involvement. It could be a debrief or somebody trying to drop  
21 out of the gang.

22 It could be someone that is just speaking freely. When  
23 we're speaking about kind of how the Mexican Mafia operates or  
24 some of the crimes that they commit, and they might not think  
04:40PM 25 much of it because it's not a specific crime that I'm

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1 investigating, but I'm still gathering a lot of knowledge and a  
2 lot of intelligence from those conversations, and so now I'm  
3 just in those interviews and in those conversations, I'm  
4 building up my expertise and building up my knowledge on the  
04:41PM 5 interworkings of the mafia and the people involved in that  
6 criminal activity.

7 Q Have you had any sort of training in this field?

8 A I have.

9 Q What is it?

04:41PM 10 A I have taken 40 hours of street gangs and subcultures  
11 which focuses on street gangs, but also prison gangs.

12 I have attended several conferences that have ranged  
13 from one day to even a week where they focus on gang trends,  
14 specifically on Mexican Mafia related trends, and those are  
04:41PM 15 involving prison guards, prison officials, prison  
16 investigators, as well as various jail investigators and also  
17 detectives that are explaining their cases, and also current  
18 trends that are occurring within the Mexican Mafia.

19 I have also -- well, I've taught a lot of classes also.

04:42PM 20 Q Go ahead. What sort of classes have you taught?

21 A Well, I have taught classes on Mexican Mafia, especially  
22 to the sheriff's department and newer deputies that are  
23 arriving in the jail. So where I can actually explain to them  
24 how the Mexican Mafia works because it can be a very foreign  
04:42PM 25 topic, and interesting thing to think that these 150 or so

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1 individuals control thousands of gang members.

2 I will have -- I'm sorry, I have taught classes to  
3 members of the different police departments in Southern  
4 California, the FBI, to various police departments throughout  
04:42PM 5 central California, in Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama,  
6 Belize, New York, not in Central America, also Texas, and I  
7 also trained new task force officers as to investigations and  
8 Mexican Mafia related investigations that are on our team.

9 Q Now, are you also familiar at all with Pomona-based  
04:42PM 10 Hispanic street gangs?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Can you describe that familiarity?

13 A Well, in the jail as a regular deputy, as well as an  
14 Operations Safe Jails investigator, I have spoken to dozens of  
04:43PM 15 gang members from the City of Pomona.

16 So I have been familiar with them.

17 I also review several pieces of evidence known as a  
18 "roll call," which is actually a document that inmates in the  
19 county jail list their gang membership, their monikers, and as  
04:43PM 20 well as their name. And I have learned different street gangs  
21 that are associated to Pomona, based off of reviewing that roll  
22 call, that I've found during searches, as well as listening to  
23 jail calls of Pomona gang members, as well as working in the  
24 City of Pomona because our task force is actually -- the  
04:43PM 25 sponsoring agency is Pomona Police Department. So I have

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1 become familiar with Hispanic Pomona street gangs in the area.

2 Q Is there another word for Hispanic street gangs or its  
3 members?

04:44PM 4 A People refer to as Surenos or even Southsiders, but Sureno

5 gangs is most common.

6 Q Have you testified as an expert before regarding the  
7 Mexican Mafia and Surenos?

8 A I have.

04:44PM 9 Q And also just to backtrack a little bit, because of this

10 investigations you have done, listening to jail calls, your

11 training, your experience, are you familiar at all with slang

12 used by Surenos and Mexican Mafia members and associates?

13 A Yes.

04:44PM 14 Q Can you just describe generally how you have become  
15 familiar with the slang?

04:44PM 16 A Well, we become familiar with some of those conversations  
17 I have had that I spoke with earlier in interviews, but also  
18 just informal conversations where I can learn the vernacular  
19 and slang that is used, but also listening to hundreds and  
20 hundreds of jail calls where they're actually -- these inmates  
21 and these Mexican Mafia soldiers and high ranking shot-callers  
22 are discussing their criminal activity in coded language to try  
23 and avoid people like me from finding out.

04:45PM 24 Q We will get into some of the things you just said, the  
25 definitions, but based off of everything you have just

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1 described, are you familiar with the Mexican Mafia structure?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Its hierarchy?

4 A Yes.

04:45PM 5 Q Its methods of operations?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Crimes submitted on its behalf?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Communications?

04:45PM 10 A Yes.

11 Q Can you just describe what -- when we're saying  
12 "communications" what sort of things have you reviewed in your  
13 investigations or in your trainings in order to be  
14 knowledgeable about what sort of communications Mexican Mafia  
04:45PM 15 and Surenos use?

16 A So during my investigations, as well as investigations I  
17 have assisted on, as try to utilize my expertise and knowledge,  
18 I have listened to jail calls between communications of Mexican  
19 Mafia members or their shot-callers, and the individuals on the  
04:45PM 20 streets or in prison.

21 I have reviewed several handwritten notes that are  
22 either between inmates within the jail system, inmates within  
23 the prison system, or letters going from the streets to prison  
24 or vice versa.

04:46PM 25 I have also reviewed communications of visits. So an

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1 actual -- an inmate receives a visit from somebody, oftentimes  
2 they will be utilizing coded language to communicate their  
3 criminal activity over that visit and that could be a video  
4 visit or it could be actually through sometimes Plexiglass and  
04:46PM 5 a phone conversation. So I have monitored those and I have  
6 seen those, as well as phone calls that are on wiretaps. But  
7 usually phones, cell phone text messages, social media, any way  
8 you can think of to communicate they will utilize, as well as  
9 just verbal messages.

04:46PM 10 MR. KAHAN: Your Honor, at this time United States  
11 won move to admit Detective Self on the Mexican Mafia  
12 structure, hierarchy, methods of operations, communications, as  
13 well as Sureno and Hispanic street structure and slang.

14 THE COURT: Any objection?

04:47PM 15 MR. NOVAK: No, we have already litigated that.

16 THE COURT: I will admit him as an expert.

17 BY MR. KAHAN:

18 Q Do you understand that all of my questions regarding your  
19 opinions on certain things could be based off of the training  
04:47PM 20 and experience that you've of just described?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And just to go back on some of that, whenever you are  
23 doing these sort of investigations are you -- is it just you  
24 are investigating something that happened in the jail and  
04:47PM 25 that's it or do you go out in the field and do these

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1 investigations and the follow up?

2 A Definitely in the field, as well as the jail.

3 Q As part of that you have reviewed suspected victims of  
4 these crimes?

04:47PM 5 A Yes. A lot of victims.

6 Q Witnesses?

7 A Witnesses.

8 Q Suspects and people that you have arrested?

9 A Suspects, people we have arrested or investigating that  
04:47PM 10 we're contacting during search warrants.

11 Q And is that important for you to further learn about the  
12 Mexican Mafia's overall structures and goals?

13 A It's definitely important to get a wide array of knowledge  
14 ranging from the victims to the witnesses to the actual  
04:48PM 15 suspects and the crimes, because sometimes they are  
16 interchangeable, to be honest.

17 Q Now, let's talk about ways that you have gathered  
18 intelligence on the Mexican Mafia. Does it include a lot of  
19 things you have just described?

04:48PM 20 A Yes.

21 Q Jail calls?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Letters?

24 A Yes.

04:48PM 25 Q Interviewing people?

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1 A Yes.

2 Q Is it easy to gather intel against Mexican Mafia and  
3 Surenos?

4 A No.

04:48PM 5 Q Why?

6 A Because they are doing their best effort to avoid people  
7 like me from determining their criminal activity, so they try  
8 to hide it the best they can.

9 Q What then is from your experience the best way to gather  
04:48PM 10 intelligence on the interworkings and structure of the Mexican  
11 Mafia?

12 A Well, cooperators, informants are great.

13 Listening to phone calls, where they are actually  
14 discussing their criminal activity, because when someone is in  
04:48PM 15 the custody setting they are often limited to how they can  
16 communicate with the outside world.

17 So they will use these phone calls.

18 And if they cannot smuggle in a cell phone they will  
19 have to utilize the jail or prison phone and then I can monitor  
04:49PM 20 it, as well as doing search warrants and getting their cell  
21 phones and reviewing those text messages that are discussing  
22 the criminal activity. If it is a contraband phone in prison  
23 or jail, those have been seized and I have authored search  
24 warrants on those devices and reviewed the context, text  
25 messages, photographs, social media accounts.

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1 Any number of ways that we can, we will try and get  
2 intelligence and evidence on those crimes, but they definitely  
3 try their best to avoid that obviously.

04:49PM 4 Q You mentioned cooperators, why is that helpful for your

5 investigations and gathering intelligence?

04:50PM 6 A Well, because what I have learned is the Mexican Mafia, as  
7 well as their soldiers, try so hard to avoid detection, coded  
8 language, deleting messages, verbal messages only, that someone  
9 in the interworkings would have intimate knowledge of the  
10 workings of the organization, something that I might not be  
11 able to gather in realtime. But also something that I wouldn't  
12 be privy to like a private conversation, so they are  
13 invaluable.

14 Q You mentioned coded language, what is that?

04:50PM 15 A Well, coded language would be something that is used and  
16 is devised in way that only the two parties would know what  
17 they're speaking about, not necessarily a glossary or the  
18 Rosetta Stone of exact terms, but it would be more informal  
19 gang code where they are actually speaking about something that  
20 hopefully only those two parties would know that would be  
21 difficult for me to understand.

22 But I would have to use the context of the entire  
23 investigation, whether it's narcotics or an assault order or a  
24 murder order, so they are using some sort of code that  
04:50PM 25 hopefully they only understand and hopefully I can figure out

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1 based off of the entirety of the investigation.

2 Q Now, when you're talking to cooperators, is there some  
3 sort of risk attached to cooperating against the Mexican Mafia?

4 A Oh, yes, there is a lot of risk.

04:51PM 5 Q Can you describe those risks?

6 A Well, that is one of the --

7 MR. NOVAK: Objection, relevance.

8 THE COURT: Overruled.

9 A The cardinal sin and the No. 1 rule of the Mexican Mafia  
04:51PM 10 and gang life is to not cooperate with law enforcement.

11 So anybody that is deemed to be cooperating with law  
12 enforcement or even suspected could be violently attacked or  
13 even murdered, unfortunately.

14 BY MR. KAHAN:

04:51PM 15 Q Is there a term for that in terms of being a target for  
16 murder?

17 A Well, somebody that's on the "green light list" is the  
18 most commonly used term.

19 Q "Green light"?

04:51PM 20 A Green light.

21 Q Now we have been talking about the Mexican Mafia a lot,  
22 can you just describe the overall goals of the Mexican Mafia?

23 A The overall goals of the Mexican Mafia is to have power.  
24 Have power of the prison system, have power of the jails, and  
04:52PM 25 have power of the streets, the community.

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1           That power ultimately translates to money generated.

2           So really once they figured they could have the power of  
3           all of these different entities, they can actually use that  
4           power to generate revenue through a variety of ways victimizing  
5           people.

04:52PM

6   Q        Making money, revenue, it sounds like a business?

7   A        It's very business-esque, it's just the means in which  
8           they conduct their business is the real problem.

04:52PM

9   Q        Like a business then or franchise as you mentioned  
10          earlier, does it have rules?

11   A        There are rules.

12   Q        What are the rules?

13   A        We just touched on the most important rule which is don't  
14          rat, don't cooperate with law enforcement under any  
15          circumstances.

04:52PM

16           They do not steal money from the Mexican Mafia. If you  
17          owe a debt to the Mexican Mafia, you shall pay that debt.

04:53PM

18           There's different settings have different rules. So in  
19          the custody setting, there is even mundane rules such as you  
20          shall wake up at a certain time of day, you shall be quiet at a  
21          certain time of day, you have to roll up your mattress, you  
22          have to go to dayroom or the recreational area, you have to  
23          have your shoes on throughout the day in case of a fight breaks  
24          out where your fellow gang members need assistance.

04:53PM

25           They are actually controlling every aspect of their life

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1 from those little things, like when they wake up to if you  
2 smuggle narcotics into the jail you have to pay a portion of  
3 those narcotics smuggled in to the Mexican Mafia.

4 Q Is there a term for that?

04:53PM 5 A It's commonly known as the "thirds," because actually a  
6 thirds of those narcotics smuggled into the county jail or  
7 prison system would belong to the Mexican Mafia, meaning they  
8 would actually confiscate that and if you do not agree to those  
9 terms, then you will be met with violent results.

04:53PM 10 Q Now in terms of the overall structure of the Mexican  
11 Mafia, can you just describe what that structure looks like?

12 A Well, it's similar to a pyramid, really a paramilitary  
13 organization, where you have a CEO, or the general, that's  
14 Mexican Mafia member.

04:54PM 15 And the Mexican Mafia member, I touched on it that  
16 there's certain individuals that are yes, criminal street gang  
17 members but they are actually Mexican Mafia members and they  
18 control the criminal activity that is conducted by those street  
19 gang members. But each individual member has autonomy to  
20 operate how they see fit. They operate as their own franchise  
21 basically where they actually will control the criminal  
22 activity that is in their territory.

23 Now, obviously there is a lot of moving parts within  
24 their organizations. So they will have then some sort of  
04:54PM 25 secretary that is actually relaying messages between them and

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1 the subordinates. If it's on the streets there is -- there is  
2 really three different factions of their territory, the prison  
3 system, possibly a jail system, and then the streets.

4 So each individual area would have a designated  
04:55PM 5 shot-caller controlling that area, if it's the City of Compton  
6 or if it's the City of Pomona they would designate a specific  
7 crew chief or shot-caller for that area.

8 Moving down, they would have designated shot-callers for  
9 the gangs that they control.

04:55PM 10 Moving down, you would have all of the individual gang  
11 members.

12 So now these gang members that are traditional street  
13 gang members wouldn't have direct access usually to speaking  
14 directly to the mafia member. They might not even have access  
04:55PM 15 to speak directly to that crew chief that's running the city,  
16 it would go through -- like any other chain of command, through  
17 their shot-caller of their designated gang, to that crew chief  
18 or that shot-caller, and then maybe if the Mexican Mafia member  
19 has decided that he would speak directly with that crew chief,  
04:56PM 20 then he might be able to speak to them, but really -- and  
21 messages would flow both ways. Any issues with the gang would  
22 be disseminated down and all payments would go up, because I  
23 think we will probably touch on it, but just to be known as a  
24 criminal street gang in Southern California, you have to pay a  
04:56PM 25 revenue, you have to pay a tax, they call it "rent."

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1                   You have to pay that tax to that Mexican Mafia member in  
2 your area just to be known as a gang. Meaning if you're  
3 tagging on walls, you're conducting criminal activity in a  
4 group, you have to decide that if you are going to be a gang or  
04:56PM 5 you are not going to conduct that criminal activity. So you  
6 actually have to get permission from this Mexican Mafia member  
7 just to be viewed as a gang.

8 Q               Now, you mentioned -- and the gangs you are referring to,  
9 are those Surenos?

04:56PM 10 A           Yes.

11 Q               Are there any other notable Surenos that answer to the  
12 Mexican Mafia?

13 A               You mean Sureno gangs?

14 Q               Yep.

04:57PM 15 A           Very prominent gangs that a lot of people know about,  
16 Florencia 13, MS-13 has been in the news, 18th Street, Pomona  
17 12th Street, Compton Barrios 70s, Pacomia Flats, Barrios San  
18 Fers, all the way to National City in San Diego, Logan Heights,  
19 F-Troop in Santa Ana.

04:57PM 20           Really, any Hispanic street gang you could think of from  
21 very small maybe there's only 5, 10, 15 members, all the way to  
22 the larger gangs like Florencia 13 and MS-13 who have upwards  
23 of thousands of members, they all are Sureno gangs that are  
24 loyal to the Mexican Mafia, and actually pay taxes and answer  
04:57PM 25 to those Mexican Mafia members.

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1 Q Now you also mentioned -- you kept on using the word when  
2 referring to a member as "he." He, it has to be a man?

3 A Yes.

04:58PM 4 Q Now, are there benefits for a Surenos street gang member

5 to following the rules of a Mexican Mafia?

6 A Yes.

7 Q What are those benefits?

04:58PM 8 A Well, A, you are not going to be targeted for assault or

9 death for not cooperating with their program with paying those

10 taxes.

11 Also, you can operate now and generate money using  
12 criminal activity in their territory, so as you pay some form  
13 of tax and kickback to that Mexican Mafia member controlling  
14 the territory.

04:58PM 15 That is just on the basic street gang level.

16 Now, obviously the higher up you work within the  
17 organization, the greater benefits you have.

18 Q What sort of benefits can that be?

04:58PM 19 A Well, it would be a variety of things. You could get

20 sometimes discounted narcotics that you would be able to sell.

21 You could gain power and influence over your gang, which  
22 has its own benefits because now you are able to dictate terms  
23 of your gang, membership of your gang.

04:59PM 24 You also get new moneymaking opportunities when you get  
25 that reputation for being a shot-caller or a valuable resource

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1 to the Mexican Mafia, when you go into the custody setting from  
2 a jail or prison, you might be appointed some sort of  
3 shot-caller in there, where now you are able to generate  
4 revenue for your Mexican Mafia members, but sometimes those  
04:59PM 5 Mexican Mafia members will actually give you a kickback of the  
6 money you are generating.

7 You oftentimes will not have to pay taxes yourself if  
8 you are selling narcotics.

9 If you are collecting extortion money and taxes from  
04:59PM 10 criminal activity conducted in your city on behalf of that  
11 Mexican Mafia member, well, it's very common from what I have  
12 learned for those Mexican Mafia members to not force that  
13 shot-caller to then pay a tax to him because of all the -- for  
14 the criminal activity he conducts because he's obviously  
04:59PM 15 generating a lot of revenue for that Mexican Mafia member.

16 Q Are there consequences for disobeying a rule?

17 A A lot of bad consequences.

18 Q Such as?

19 A Well, it could be as low as a fine. If you owed money, it  
05:00PM 20 might get double.

21 If broke some sort of rule, you might \$1,000, \$10,000.

22 It could be escalated to violence where you actually are  
23 beat up hands and feet by various soldiers of the Mexican  
24 Mafia.

05:00PM 25 It could be upwards of a stabbing, and obviously it

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1 could result in death, really depending on the severity of the  
2 punishment.

05:00PM 3 Also just how that Mexican Mafia member is feeling,  
4 because ultimately what he says goes and the rules and the  
5 punishment are his to determine because he is able to operate  
6 with complete autonomy in his territory.

7 THE COURT: It's 5 o'clock so why don't we stop at  
8 this point, ladies and gentlemen.

05:00PM 9 Also, I made an error. We're going to start tomorrow at  
10 10 o'clock, not 10:30. One of the things I thought I had on my  
11 calendar for tomorrow morning has gone away, so we will start  
12 tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

13 And Javier, you told them where they are supposed to be?

14 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: I will tell them right now.

05:01PM 15 THE COURT: Okay. My clerk will tell you where to  
16 be tomorrow morning. Also, remember when you are on these  
17 breaks, please do not discuss this case with anyone, don't do  
18 any independent research, don't go on any social media or other  
19 forms of inquiry. Drive very safely, this is Los Angeles.

05:01PM 20 Otherwise, have a very pleasant evening, and I will see  
21 you all tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

22 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: All rise.

23 (Jury exits the courtroom at 5:01 p.m.)

24 THE COURT: Yes, you can step down.

05:02PM 25 Yes, Mr. Novak?

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